Adulteration in food

1936. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that despite series of regulatory rules administered by the Central and State Governments, adulteration in the production of various categories of food items of daily consumption, through the unbridled use of harmful pesticides, chemicals, toxic substances and other contaminants, continues unabated, causing grievous hurts and/or deaths among the general public; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken, including review of the extant laws, with a view to plugging the loopholes and making their enforcement more effective, to check the rampant adulteration of food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The standards of various food articles have been laid down under the PFAAct, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder. The tolerance limits for pesticides, chemicals, toxic substances and other contaminants have been laid down under the said rules. Food articles sold in the markets are required to conform to the standards laid down under the said rules. The implementation of the PFA Act and Rules is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/ U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.Ts. draw random samples of various food articles under the provisions of the said Act and Rules. Action is taken against the offenders where samples of food articles do not conform to the prescribed standards.

The Central Government has constituted a Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) to advise Central Government and State Governments on the matters arising out of the administration of the PFA Act and Rules. Representatives from various States/U.Ts. Governments Department/ Organisations of Central Government, Consumer Organisations, Industry are the members of this Committee. The CCFS advises the Central Government from time to time to review the PFA Rules for amendments with a view to plug the loopholes for making enforcement more effective.